

Mapline

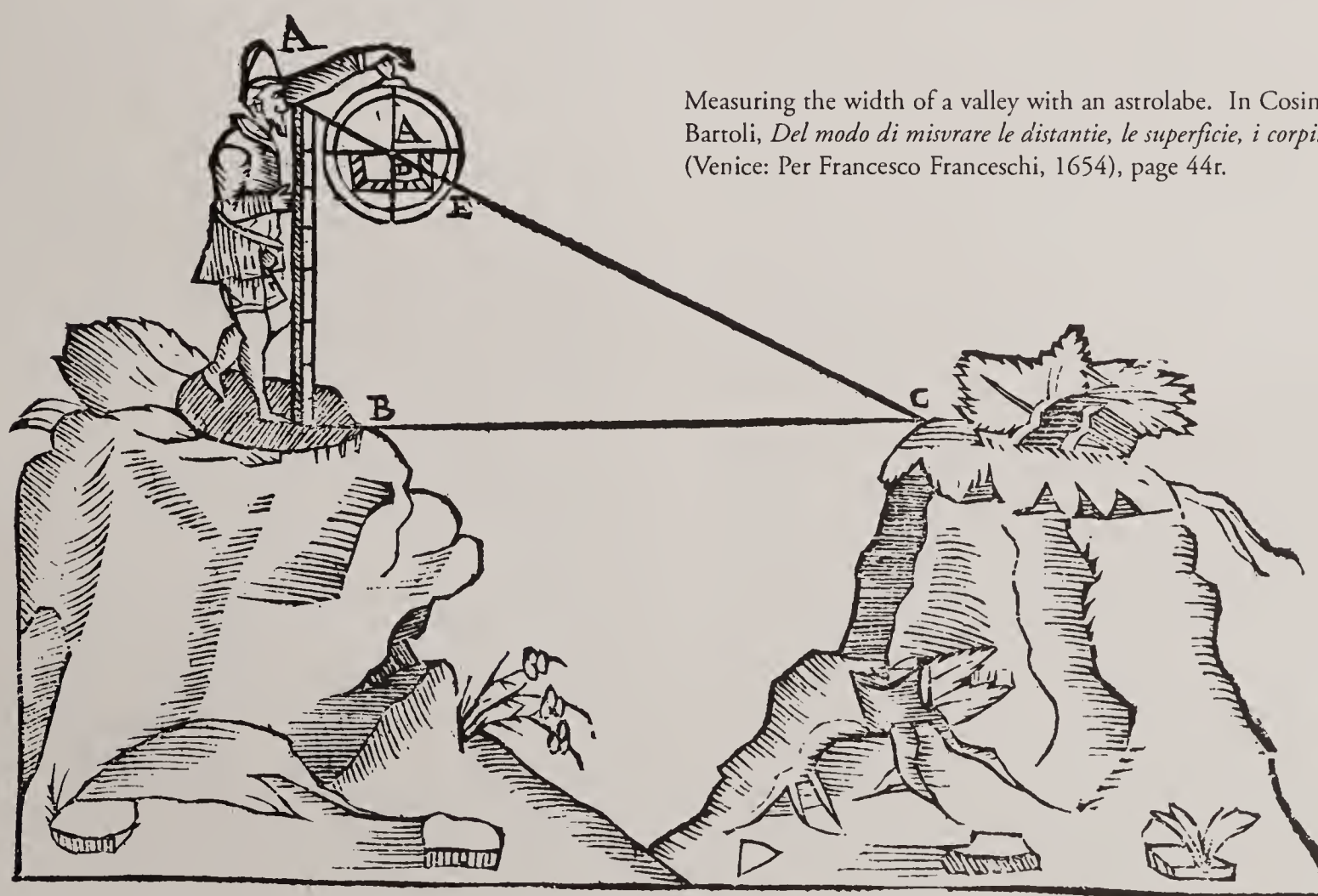
A newsletter published by
The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography at
The Newberry Library

Number 84/85 Fall 1998

Astrolabes and Maps

Some time during the Middle Ages people began to make measured maps designed for practical use in navigation. The oldest surviving example is the Pisan chart, now in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. It dates from the late 13th century, but there is no reason to believe that it was the first of its kind. Unlike the mappamundi, which co-existed with the portolan charts for a long time, the new maps emphasized purely geographical features with little of the historical, religious, and fabulous information so prominently displayed on the mappamundi.

Among the many questions raised by the portolan charts, one of the most vexing is that of their construction. What kind of instruments were used to make their meticulously drawn coastlines? No written evidence survives from the earliest period of their existence. However, we do know that two tools, useful for making measured maps, were introduced into Europe in the Middle Ages. These were the astrolabes, which appeared in the tenth century, and the compass in the twelfth. The possible use of the compass in making the charts, which are marked by compass roses



Measuring the width of a valley with an astrolabe. In Cosimo Bartoli, *Del modo di misurare le distantie, le superficie, i corpi...* (Venice: Per Francesco Franceschi, 1654), page 44r.

and rhumb lines, has been widely discussed, though no firm conclusions have been drawn. The use of the astrolabe has been treated very little.

The planispheric astrolabe is a model of the heavens projected onto a circular, flat surface. On one side a rotating pierced disk is overlaid which shows the position of the sun and the stars as they move through the sky. On the back is a dial (alidade) which can be used to sight the altitude of celestial objects. The astrolabe's origins are not known for certain, but it is thought to be an invention of the Hellenistic period, adapted and modified by the Arabs, who then reintroduced it into Western Europe. The earliest medieval reference to the instrument in the West is in a letter of 984 from Lupitus of Barcelona to Gerbert, later to become Pope Sylvester II. The oldest Western astrolabe known is the controversial "Carolingian astrolabe" discovered by Marcel Destombes.² The next oldest dates from the 14th century, though it is possible that Western Europeans were using astrolabes of Islamic manufacture imported through Spain. The astrolabe was regarded as a wonder in the Middle Ages. Used for calculation and observation, it was also (and still is) an excellent teaching tool to show the daily and yearly motion of the heavens. It was the basic mechanism of early clocks, for it could be used to tell the time of day or year, as well as to predict future positions of the stars. It was also used widely for the practice of astrology.

Could it have been used to make maps? In the Newberry Library there is a fifteenth century Catalan manuscript (Ayer, MS 746) which includes a treatise on the astrolabe attributed (falsely) to Ptolemy. Sections of this treatise include instructions for measuring the depths of a well and the height of a tower, and for finding the latitude and longitude of any place on earth, all operations of utility to mapmaking. In the sixteenth century, when the astrolabe was in general use and numerous treatises on its use and construction appeared in print, it was used for surveying.³ A shadow square, engraved on the back of the main body of the astrolabe could be used with the dial and its two sights for local surveying, while the astronomical observations made possible by the scale and pointer on the other side could determine latitude. In the 15th century a stripped down version, known as the mariner's astrolabe, was developed for finding latitude at sea, and was used to locate places, in one dimension at least, for cartographic purposes.

Other, earlier treatises on the astrolabe also contained the passages relevant to mapmaking. Whether the astrolabe was actually used in this way has been questioned by Derek de Solla Price, who believed these exercises were purely for pedagogical purposes.⁴ Certainly finding the depth of a well with an astrolabe is a perverse activity, imagining that it is dark down there and probably full of water. Lowering a weight on a rope would seem to be a more practical method. In the 16th century, however, there is abundant evidence for its terrestrial as well as celestial employment.

The Catalan origin of the Newberry manuscript is interesting because of the lively community of map- and instrument-makers, primarily Jewish, who lived in the region of Aragon, Catalonia and Majorca. Here in the various kingdoms formed and re-formed in the late Middle Ages were found active and generous royal patrons, even if the kings' main interest was in astrology. The Majorcan Cresques Abraham, who was responsible for the great Catalan Atlas of 1375, was also an instrument maker. He was succeeded by his son, Judah, who went on to have a distinguished mapmaking career under the name of Jaime Ribes and wound up in Portugal in the 1420's in the service of Henry the Navigator. Isaac Nafuci of Majorca made astrolabes for Pedro IV of Aragon in 1359 and for his successor Juan I (1387-93). Crescas de Viver was also a manufacturer of astrolabes for Juan I. Jacob ben David Bonjorn, whose astronomical tables of 1361 appear in the Newberry manuscript, made astronomical instruments for Pedro IV of Aragon. His work in turn was based on the observations and tables of Levi ben Gerson and Abraham bar Hiyya. The Jewish Catalan community was also involved in trade and navigation, where astronomical instruments and maps were increasingly important. Scholarly life in the Catalan Jewish community received a serious blow in the persecutions of 1391 and came to an end in 1492 when the Jews were expelled from Spain.

As with all research projects, unanswered questions are often the most interesting. While it is clear that observations and calculations with astrolabes could provide useful data for mapmakers, I failed to uncover any evidence that they actually did so before the sixteenth century. What I did find was a rich and learned astronomical tradition in Catalonia, stretching from Lupitus of Barcelona in the 10th century through Cresques Abraham and Jacob ben David Bonjorn in the 14th. In this same part of the world, with its

connections by sea to Italy, north Africa, and Portugal, came many of the early breakthroughs in the making of portolan charts. There could be—but is there?—a significant connection.

Evelyn Edson

Piedmont Virginia Community College
Charlottesville, Virginia

Notes:

¹For a succinct account of the problem, see Tony Campbell, "Portolan Charts from the Late Thirteenth Century to 1500," in J. B. Harley and David Woodward, *The History of Cartography* (Chicago, 1987), I, 380-90.

²An entire issue of *Physis: Rivista internazionale di Storia della Scienza*, XXXII, n.s. fasc.2-3 (1995) is devoted to the question of this astrolabe under the title "The Oldest Latin Astrolabe."

³Johan Stöffler, *Elucidatio fabricae ususque astrolabii* (Oppenheim, 1513) is one example. His work was translated into a number of modern languages and was published in many editions. See also Cosimo Bartoli, *Del modo di misurare le distanze, le superficie, i corpi, le piante, le provincie, le prospettive & tutte le altre cose terrene, che possono occorrere a gli huomini: secondo le vere regole d'Euclide e de gli altre piu lodate scrittori* [How to measure distances, surfaces, objects, areas, projected distances and all other terrestrial things which might be necessary for men, following the true rules of Euclid and other famous writers] (Venice, 1564). In Book IV Bartoli describes how to map a province using an astrolabe equipped with a compass and placed horizontally. Among his "famous writers" he cites Albrecht Durer, Leon Battista Alberti, and Ptolemy.

⁴Derek J. deSolla Price, "Medieval Land Surveying and Topographical Maps," *Geographical Journal*, CXXI:1 (March 1995), pp. 2-3. He calls these problems "an attempt by teachers of geometry to make their subject seem of practical use."

The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography was founded in 1972 at The Newberry Library to promote the study of the history of cartography through public programs, research projects, fellowships, courses of instruction, and publications. Further information about the Center is available on request from the Director, **James R. Akerman**.

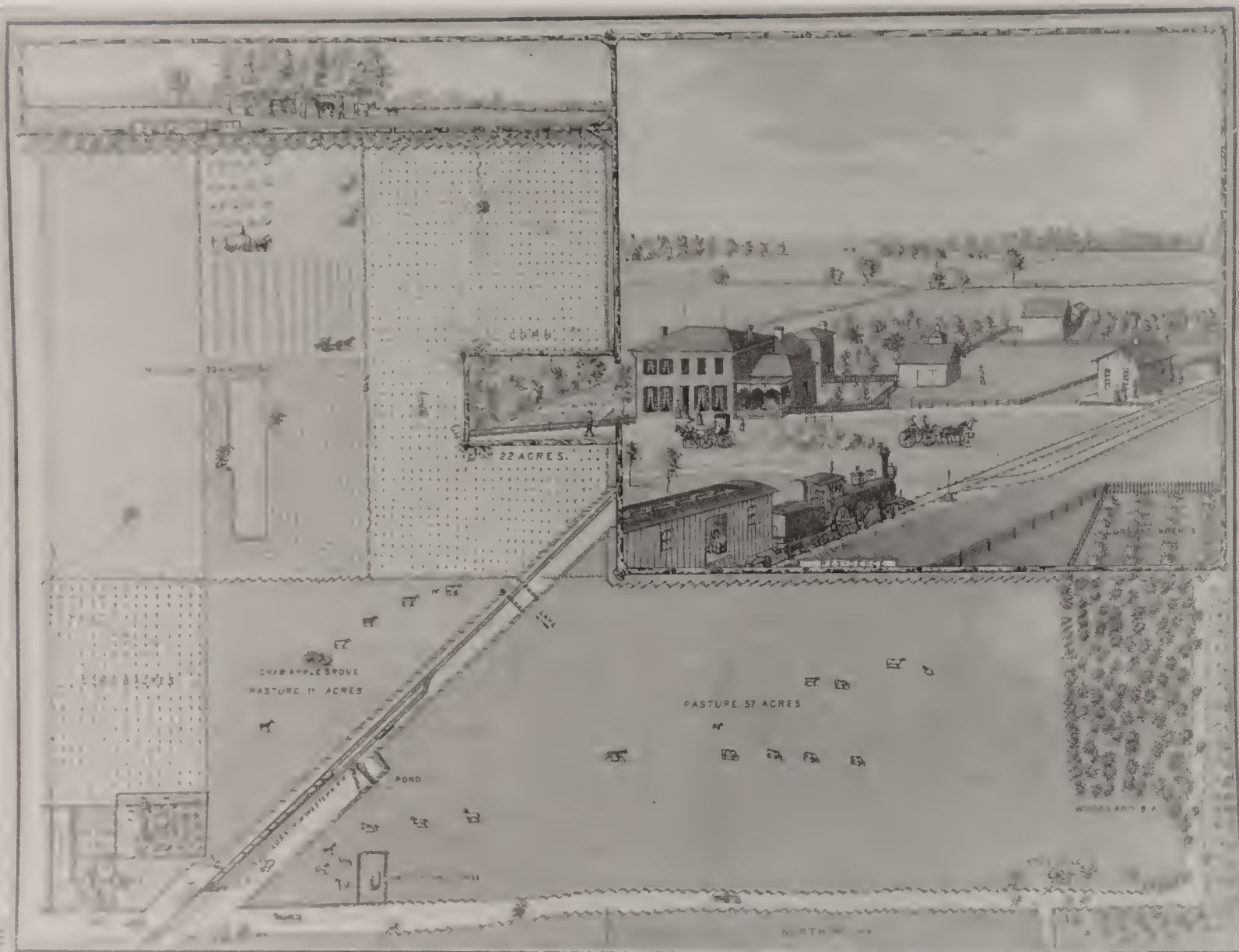
Mapline is published by the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography. An annual subscription is \$8.00 for U.S. and North America; \$10.00 elsewhere. Back issues (as available) are \$2.50 each. Please address all correspondence to **James R. Akerman** (akermanj@newberry.org) or **Kristen Block** (blockk@newberry.org), Co-editors, *Mapline*, The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610-3380. ISSN 0196-1881.

Historic Maps in K-12 Classrooms

The Smith Center's first annual series of workshops for teachers, "Historic Maps in K-12 Classrooms," reached a successful conclusion this past May. The series, funded in part by the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, was attended by 66 Chicago area teachers, representing grades K-12. Participants attended six Saturday sessions where they were assisted in the development of age-appropriate strategies for enhancing their students' geography, history and social studies skills through classroom use of historic maps. The all-day workshops were coordinated by Center Director James Akerman, with the assistance of Bob Karrow, Pat Morris, and Tina Reithmaier. Themes for the workshops were "Cartography and World Views," "Historic Maps and the Human World" and "Using Maps to Study American and Local History." During each workshop, teachers were given hands-on activities designed to improve map research skills and to help develop effective lessons and exercises for utilizing historic maps in the classroom. They also received color acetate transparencies of selected Newberry maps for use in their schools.

A lesson plan, developed around Rand McNally & Co.'s *Standard Guide Map of the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, 1893*, was prepared at the end of the summer by workshop participants Jesse Markow, Ani Thompson-Smith, and Judith Bock. This plan and a transparency of the map were distributed this fall to the teachers who participated in the year's workshops. The lesson plan is to be the first of what we hope will develop into a series of materials incorporating reproductions of maps from the Newberry's collections and age-appropriate lesson plans.

One of the greatest strengths of the program was the personal impact the workshop had on the teachers, both as a source of inspiration and as means to broaden their awareness, knowledge, and confidence with maps and geography. An upper elementary social studies teacher reported that "being able to actually see, feel, and work with original maps... made a great deal of difference." A teacher of gifted K-2 and 6-8 grade students vowed "to help other teachers see the importance of a variety of maps at a variety of scales when teaching, [which would] help them expand beyond text materials." A third teacher, from Bridge School in Chicago, stated that "I know I am a better



"Pictorial Map of the 130 Acre Farm of Jonathan Miller, on West Half of Section 36, Township 18, Range 6, North West Suburbs of Athens, Menard Co., Illinois." From the *Illustrated Atlas Map of Menard County, Illinois*. (Edwardsville, Ill.: W.R. Brink & Co., 1874).

teacher, especially in Geography, because of the three Saturdays I spent at the Newberry... The maps take you places all by yourself or with a friend. That is what I hope to impart to my first graders." Yet another teacher noted simply that the workshops "renewed [a] fascination with maps that I had lost."

A Kindergarten teacher felt that the map reproductions made available during the course of the workshops were "especially useful in visual discrimination activities" for lower elementary children, who could use them to identify shapes, colors, letters, and number... The variety of maps [presented in the workshops] provided the diversity to help students find a permanent interest and need for maps." In an entirely different vein, an English and Journalism teacher from a Chicago

high school wrote: "I found my seniors were very motivated to learn how to read maps now, because they are seeing the *need* for these skills. Our map unit... was a wonderful way to increase reading skills and to show that reading skills go beyond reading a textbook or newspaper."

Such comments and ideas are both the inspiration and building blocks for future efforts. This program is part of the Newberry's continuing and steadily enlarging effort to provide materials, inspiration, and guidance to Chicago's educators and students through the innovative use of our collections, public programs, and staff expertise. The 1997-98 "Historic Maps" program has made a significant contribution to these efforts.

Tina Reithmaier and Jim Akerman

Putting Chicago's History on the Map: Cartography and the Historical Landscape

This past spring, a lecture and workshop series entitled "Putting Chicago's History on the Map: Cartography and the Historical Landscape" was hosted by the Smith Center. The series, funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, emphasized the use of maps to read the historical landscape. On the first day of the lecture series, Saturday, February 14, over 200 historians, geographers, genealogists, librarians, map collectors, teachers, and members of the general public delighted in Dr. Michael Conzen's (University of Chicago) illustrated lecture, "Reading the Landscape: An Overview." His examples spanned geographical distances from Boston to Wisconsin. University of Illinois at Chicago professor Gerald Danzer drew on examples as varied as maps from the General Land Office Survey and promotional maps of the City which advertised State and Madison Streets in his lecture, "Chicago's History in Maps."

In March, Dr. Ted Karamanski from Loyola University, Chicago, took the concepts which Conzen and Danzer had so eloquently laid out in the first lectures, and demonstrated the use of maps as historical sources in his talk, "Historical Sources and the Built Environment: Exploring the Linkages between Rural and Urban Landscape." Using the community of Edgewater as an example, his focus included environmental history and city planning. Dr. Ann Durkin Keating (North Central College) followed by showing the audience maps related to city and town planning in her talk, "Mapping the History of Chicago's Infrastructure."

James Akerman (The Newberry Library) and David Buisseret (University of Texas

at Arlington) concluded the series on April 25. The Saturday morning audience delighted in viewing a map published at the time of the 1933 "Century of Progress" Exposition illustrating "Gangland Chicago" and other pictorial maps, planning maps, and road maps illuminating the city's history, which Akerman presented in his lecture "Beyond the Grid: Interpreting Pictorial and Ephemeral Maps of Chicago." Buisseret used aerial views of Europe and specific sights of Chicago to illustrate the use of these sources in conjunction with contemporary maps to fully understand the lay of the land and the tale of a community.

Saturday afternoon workshops were attended by professional staff members and volunteers from historical societies, museums and libraries in the Chicago metropolitan area. The Newberry's local map collection was highlighted in a number of examples



"Map of Hyde Park, Calumet, Thornton, South Chicago, and northern portion of Lake County, Ind.,"
(New York: New York Lithography, Engraving & Printing Co., [1871?]).

given by James Akerman, Pat Morris and Tina Reithmaier during the first session. The participants toured the map rooms of the Chicago Historical Society and the University of Illinois at Chicago Library during the session in March. In April, an instructive session was given by the late David Thackery, who introduced the participants to genealogical sources such as census materials, city directories and county atlases, and explained their use in conjunction with maps in historical research. The participants shared their own written commentaries on local maps with each other at the final session in May.

It was a pleasure to meet all those who attended the morning lecture series and afternoon workshops. The series reminded us again that there is an abundance of enthusiasm for using maps to study local history. To serve this interest we have begun plans to operate an annual one-day workshop on local history and maps each spring. We also plan to continue our interests in promoting the series of township histories "Mapping the Metropolis."

Tina Reithmaier

Two New Books in the Nebenzahl Series

Since the last issue of *Mapline*, two new books based on past Nebenzahl Lectures have been released from the University of Chicago Press. The first, *Envisioning the City: Six Studies in Urban Cartography*, edited by David Buisseret (May 1998), was the product of the 10th Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography which were held at the Newberry Library in November 1991. Contributors include: Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt, "Mapping the Chinese City: The Image and the Reality"; Naomi Miller, "Mapping the City: Ptolemy's Geography in the Renaissance"; Richard L. Kagan, "Urbs and Civitas in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Spain"; Martha Pollak, "Military Architecture and Cartography in the Design of the Early Modern City"; David Buisseret, "Modeling Cities in Early Modern Europe"; and Gerald A. Danzer, "The Plan of Chicago by Daniel H. Burnham and Edward H. Bennett: Cartographic and Historical Perspectives." The book retails for \$50.

The second book, edited by G. Malcolm Lewis, is entitled *Cartographic Encounters: Perspectives on Native American Mapmaking and Map Use* (July 1998). Coming out of the 11th Nebenzahl Lecture series (June 1993), this book features several introductory articles by Lewis, along

with essays by Elizabeth Hill Boone, "Maps of Territory, History, and Community in Aztec Mexico"; Barbara Belyea, "Inland Journeys, Native Maps"; Margaret Wickens Pearce, "Native Mapping in Southern New England Indian Deeds"; Morris S. Arnold, "Eighteenth-Century Arkansas Illustrated: A Map within an Indian Painting?"; Gregory A. Waselkov, "Indian Maps of the Colonial Southeast: Archaeological Implications and Prospects"; Patricia Galloway, "Debriefing Explorers: Amerindian Information in the Delisles' Mapping of the Southeast"; and

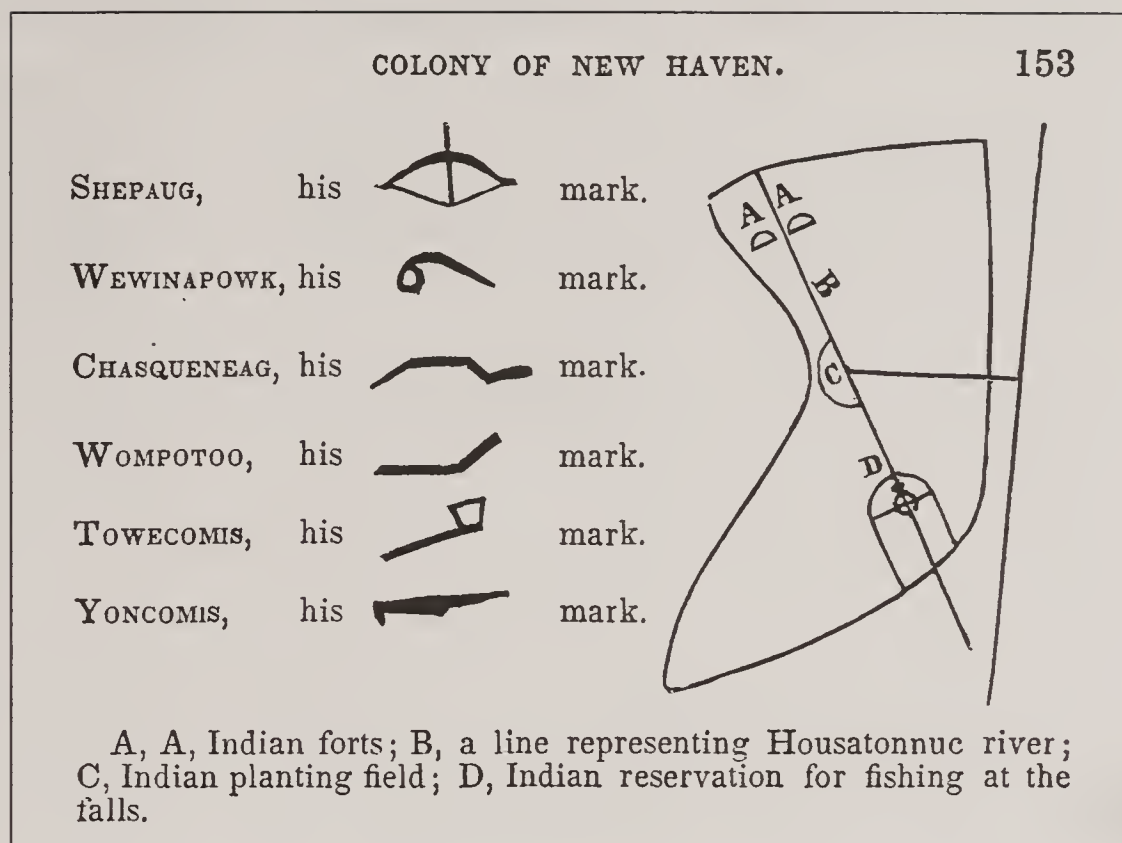


"Chicago: View, Looking West, of the Proposed Civic Center." Painting by Jules Guerin, in Daniel Hudson Burnham and Edward H. Bennett, *Plan of Chicago*, plate 132, (Chicago: The Commercial Club, 1909).

Peter Nabokov, "Orientations from Their Side: Dimensions of Native American Cartographic Discourse." The book retails for \$60.

Copies of either book can be ordered from the Newberry Library bookstore or from the University of Chicago Press.

The Weantinock deed (1703) as redrawn in Edward R. Lambert, *History of the Colony of New Haven* (New Haven: Hitchcock and Stafford, 1838), p. 153.



Nebenzahl Prize for Dissertations

The Smith Center is proud to announce the creation of the Nebenzahl Prize for Dissertations in the History of Cartography. Funded through the generous support of Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Nebenzahl, the prize will be awarded every two years beginning in January 1999, and presented to the author of a submitted dissertation which is judged to have made the most significant contribution to the study of the history of cartography. The Nebenzahl Prize for Dissertations in the History of Cartography replaces the Nebenzahl Prize for Books in the History of Cartography.

Doctoral dissertations in any field are eligible for the prize, provided a significant portion of their content is concerned with the history of cartography. The dissertation must have been approved by an accredited Ph.D. granting institution during the 24-month period prior to the competition deadline. Submissions from outside the United States are welcome, so long as the copy submitted is in English. Two paper copies of the dissertation, one in bound

form and one unbound, inclusive of all illustrations, must be submitted along with three letters of recommendations and appropriate documentation from the Ph.D. granting institution. The dissertation will be judged in an open competition and selected by the prize committee on the basis of the significance of its contribution to the study of the history of cartography. The deadline for submission for the first competition closed on November 1, 1998. We will announce the winner early in 1999.

The prizewinner will receive a \$1,500 cash award and a fellowship for work-in-residence at the Newberry Library to assist in the expansion or revision of his or her dissertation, plus a monthly stipend of \$800. Prize winners will be offered a review of their dissertations by the University of Chicago Press.

Thirteenth Nebenzahl Lecture Series – “Narratives & Maps”

Keep your calendars free for the next Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography (October 28–30, 1999), titled “Narratives & Maps: Historical Studies in Cartographic Storytelling.”

The program will include studies of the use of maps in narratives of travel and geographical discovery, in novels that rely on maps to tell their tales (such as adventure stories), in historical atlases, and in mapping forms that clearly stand alone as narratives. The exploratory nature of the lecture series will be united by a series of focal questions about map narration – both pictorial and written, the relationship between maps and written or oral texts which accompany them, and the power of the map narrative to take on a life of its own in the reader’s eyes, sometimes quite apart from the intentions of map-makers. Speakers for the program will include: James Akerman (The Newberry Library), Ted Cachey (Italian, Notre Dame), Mercedes Maroto Camino (English, University of Auckland), Garrett Sullivan (English, Penn State), William Sherman (English, University of Maryland–College Park), Jeffrey Peters (French, University of Kentucky), Jeremy Black (History, University of Exeter), and Mark Monmonier (Geography, Syracuse University).

As always, the lectures are free and open to the public, but do require advance registration. To register please contact the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610, phone (312) 255-3523, email akermanj@newberry.org or blockk@newberry.org.

Mellon Foundation Aids in Creation of “Maps & Nations” Seminar

In mid-March, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation approved a two-year grant to fund a new summer seminar for graduate students, “Maps and Nations: Discovering and Debating the Interaction between Society and Cartography.” We held the first in the series of two eight-week seminars this summer, from

June 22 to August 14. The twelve students selected to participate in the seminar represented fields as varied as art history, literature, anthropology, and history.

The participants began by exploring the seminal work of Brian Harley, Denis Wood, Robert Rundstrom, Barbara Belyea, Matthew Edney, and Mark Monmonier, which explore the social and political dimensions of map-making and map use. The seminar was particularly concerned with the ethical dimensions of cartography and the historic role of maps in state and empire building and in the formation of national identities. The seminar concluded with an examination of the uses and abuses of cartographic history in nationalist rhetoric during the late 20th century. The program of readings and lectures led by James Akerman was enhanced by guest lecturers Matthew Edney (University of Southern Maine), Susan Schulten (University of Denver), David Buisseret (University of Texas-Arlington), James Krokak (DePaul University), and Laura Hostetler (University of Illinois-Chicago). Aside from their seminar papers, the participants began planning an exhibit that we hope to mount at the Newberry in 2001 or 2002.

The “Maps & Nations” seminar will be offered again next summer. Those interested in applying should contact the Smith Center. A full report on the seminar follows in the next issue of *Mapline*.

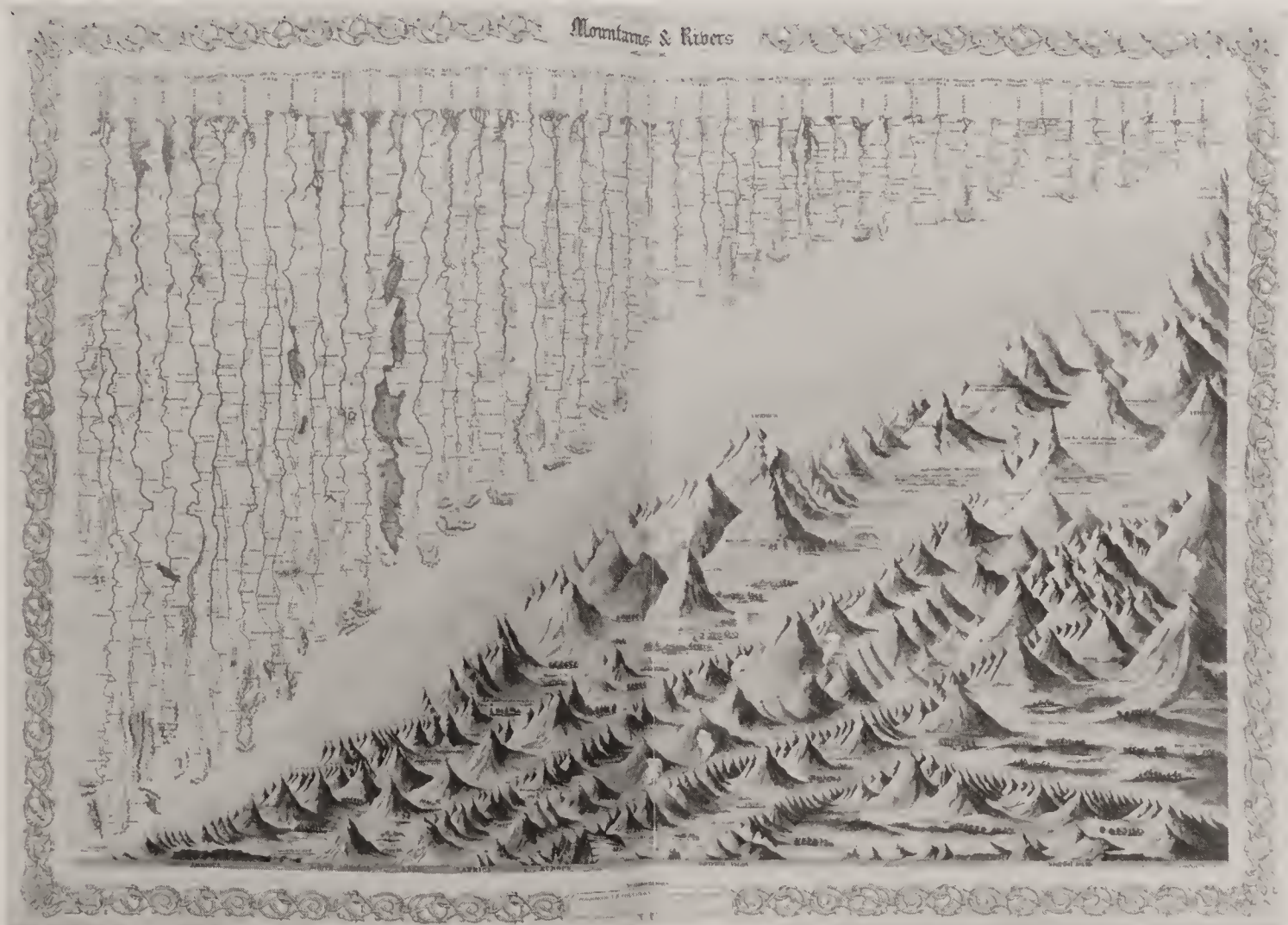
Smith Center to Co-Sponsor History of the Book Lecture

The Smith Center will cosponsor the inaugural lecture in a new “History of the Book” seminar, which is being organized by the Newberry’s Center for Renaissance Studies. Professor Valerie Traub’s (English, University of Michigan) lecture is entitled “Anatomy, Cartography, and the New World Body.” She will present on January 15, 1999. For more information contact The Center for Renaissance Studies, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610-3380, phone (312) 255-3514, email renaissance@newberry.org.

Symposium on the History of Cartography in Geography Education

The Smith Center, in conjunction with the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS), sponsored a symposium on October 7 entitled *Maps and Minds: A History of Cartography in Geography Education*. The symposium preceded the annual NACIS conference in Milwaukee. Seven speakers presented their research at the symposium, in two panels: one entitled "Traditions," the other, "Prospects." Barbara McCorkle (Yale University, retired) kicked off the morning session with her talk, "Maps in 18th Century British Geographies," and was followed by Jeffrey Patton (Geography, University of North Carolina-Greensboro), "The Design and Evolution of 19th Century American School Atlases," and Bob Karrow (The Newberry Library), "Geography

Education in the Renaissance." James Akerman (The Newberry Library) concluded the session with, "Old Maps, New Geographies: Historic Maps in the K-12 Classroom." The afternoon session, "Prospects," began with a presentation on "Cartography, Theory and Geography Education" by Roger Downs (Geography, Penn State University), who was followed by Charles Fitzpatrick (Environmental Systems Research Institute), speaking on "GIS, the Web, and the Future of Cartographic Education." The final speakers of the day were Phil Gersmehl (Geography, University of Minnesota) and Carol Gersmehl (Geography, Macalester College) who discussed "Stone-Axe Multimedia: Designing Multimedia for Real Students."



A map in J.H. Colton's 1856 *Atlas of the World* attempted to illustrate to schoolchildren the relative size of mountains and lengths of rivers. It compared 43 of the world's great rivers and several hundred of the best known mountain peaks by straightening river courses and ignoring geographical relations between mountain peaks, giving youngsters the impression that geography was primarily a descriptive science. George Colton, "Mountains and Rivers," from *Atlas of the World*, vol. 2 (New York: J.H. Colton & Co., 1856), featured in Newberry Library Slide Set No. 20, *Nineteenth-Century Images of the World for American School Children*, by Jeffrey C. Patton.

Short-Term Fellowships in the History of Cartography

After a hiatus of several years, we are pleased to announce the 1998-1999 awards for short-term fellowships for research in the History of Cartography at the Newberry Library. Two scholars – Mercedes Maroto Camino (English, University of Auckland) and Martine Sauret (Foreign Language & Literature, Western Michigan University) – are in residence this fall and winter. Professor Camino's topic is "Narratives of Displacement: Urban Visions of the Spanish Baroque." She arrived in mid-November. Professor Sauret was here from September 21 through October 3. She was researching "Strategical Maps in Rabelais' Work."

The Newberry Library's revived Short-Term Fellowships in the History of Cartography are funded by a generous gift from Arthur Holzheimer. They are open to applicants holding a Ph.D. and Ph.D. students at the dissertation stage who are working on projects related to the history of cartography and focused on cartographic materials in the Library's collection. They are restricted to work in residence at the Newberry Library and are available for periods of two weeks to two months. A stipend of \$800 per month accompanies the fellowship. The application deadline for 1999-2000 awards is March 1, 1999. You can obtain more information about the Short-Term History of Cartography Fellowships and obtain an application by writing to: Committee on Awards, The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610-3380. You can also email your ground mail address to research@newberry.org, or visit the Newberry's web site at www.newberry.org to download application materials.

Smith Center and Map Staff News

Bob Karrow, Administrative Curator of Special Collections and Curator of Maps, gave a talk on "Maps and Landscapes" at the Terra Museum of American Art in August. The lecture was part of a seminar accompanying an exhibition of California impressionist paintings entitled "All Things Bright and Beautiful."

David Senior (B.A. Penn State) has joined the Newberry's Special Collections staff as the new Map Reference Assistant. David has already made a lasting contribution to the Newberry's map collection. In August, he accompanied Bob Karrow to Virginia for a two-day "map boot camp" – a term the two used to describe the ordeal of sorting through the massive archives of the General Drafting Company, one of the Newberry's latest acquisitions. See below for a brief description of the General Drafting Archives.

Kristen Block (B.A. Beloit College) is the new full-time administrative assistant working with Jim Akerman at the Smith Center. She replaces **Damian Rogers**, who left the Smith Center in June. Besides assisting with the teacher workshops and summer seminar, Kristen is helping to administer and edit *Mapline*, and plans to begin redesigning the Center's web site in the near future.

****Correction****

It's always reassuring to discover that people do actually read *Mapline* carefully, even when they write to point out errors. Several of you have noted correctly that the map reproduced on page 6 of *Mapline* 82-83 did not depict Klis. The map of that Dalmatian city by Cristafaro Tarnowskij does indeed appear in our recently published Slide Set 27, but we printed another image from that set, showing the Hungarian city of Szigetvár. The correct citation for the map we printed is: Antonio Lafreri, *Il vero ritratto de Zighet, con il suo Castello, fortezza nuova, paludi, lago, fiume & ponte & altre Cose Notabili per lettere annotate, con monstra del monte fatto da Turchi, & con l'assato daiogli da esi* (Rome, 1566).

Newberry Acquisitions

(Robert W. Karrow, Jr. and Kristen Block)

General Drafting Archives

The American Map Corporation presented its map archives from The General Drafting Company to the Newberry Library on September 29, 1998. This large archive is a very exciting acquisition, as it consists of 25,000 maps, original artwork for map illustrations, atlases, "Tours and Detours" (a popular map newsletter published in the 1930s), travel guides, photographs, and correspondence. Bob Karrow, Curator of Maps, remarked that "the acquisition of the General Drafting archives – in addition to our previously-held Rand McNally archives – makes the Newberry Library the pre-eminent library for studying the twentieth-century American road map."

General Drafting was one of the "big three" publishers producing U.S. road maps from the 1920s into the 1970s. Founded in New York in 1909 by a young Finnish immigrant, Otto G. Lindberg, the company published its first road map – a map of Vermont for the American Automobile Association – in 1912. In 1923, General Drafting produced its first oil-company map for the Standard Oil Company: a map of New Jersey. Standard Oil distributed 180,000 free copies of that map and remained an active client of General Drafting for 50 years.

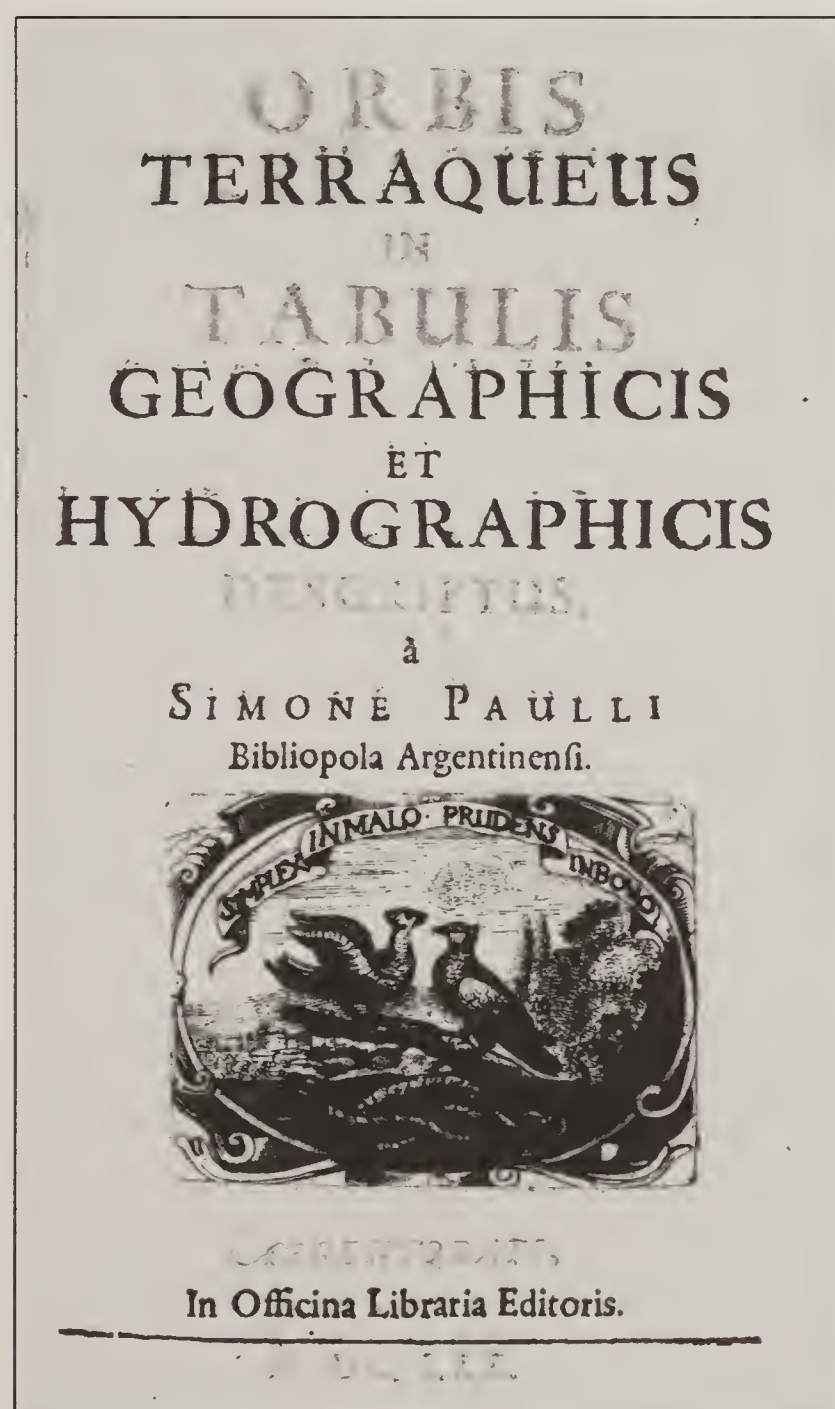
Prior to World War II, General Drafting produced 20 million road maps annually. By 1964, that figure had risen to 35 million. The oil crisis of the 1970s forced oil companies to abandon free distribution of road maps, which was a serious blow to map publishers who worked closely with oil companies. General Drafting stopped producing maps in 1991, and its assets were sold to American Map Corporation in Maspeth, NY. American Map is part of the Langenscheidt Publishing Group.

An Early Map Catalogue

The Newberry Library has also recently acquired a very early map catalogue that appears to be a wonderful source for those interested in the history of the map trade. Published in 1670 by Simon Paulli, a Strasbourg bookseller, the catalogue concentrates heavily on maps by the great seventeenth-century Dutch cartographers (and in fact is dedicated to Blaeu, Jansson, and Claus Visscher), though it includes works by other continental map-makers. The catalogue's

inventory is sub-divided by geography (Arctic, Europe, Africa, Asia, America, and Australis Incognita), by map-maker, and also by demarcations of land or sea; and "sacred" or "profane."

This type of resource gives us an idea of the material culture of the seventeenth-century map trade – revealing to the researcher the relative importance of specific items to early modern map users and collectors. One note that may be surprising is that Paulli was offering Ortelius maps for sale in 1670, one hundred years after the first publication of the *Theatrum orbis terrarum*. This map catalogue compliments the Newberry's collection of three other book catalogues owned and possibly annotated by Paulli himself.



Title page of the Paulli map catalogue.

Briefly Noted

(Compiled by Robin K. Dillow and Kristen Block)

We owe some of our information in these postings to the wonderful calendar of cartographic events and exhibits that John Docktor maintains on the World Wide Web. This list is available for viewing, along with a list of past exhibits and events, at www.cyberia.com/pages/jdocktor/.

Conferences

The National Commission for the Commemoration of the Portuguese Discoveries celebrated the **500th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's voyage to India** through an international conference in Lisbon, November 4-8, 1998. Conference themes were organized in five main categories: voyages, economies, societies, cultures, and institutions. The goal of participating historians was to contribute to a greater understanding of the journeys, cultures, and the individuals involved in the voyage of Vasco da Gama. For further details, contact the Conference Secretariat, c/o Nuria Perez, National Commission for the Commemoration of the Portuguese Discoveries, Casa dos Bicos, Rua dos Bacalhoeiros, 1100 Lisboa, Portugal; phone +351 1 888 4827, fax +351 1 887 3380; or email congressos@cncdp.pt.

The 1998-99 Oxford Seminars in Cartography have been announced. Three lecture seminars will be held in the School of Geography in Oxford, each commencing at 5 pm. November 12, 1998 – "The Mapping of Sherwood Forest in the Early Seventeenth Century: Recording Boundaries and Assarts" by Steph Mastoris (Leicestershire Museums, Arts & Records Service); February 18, 1999 – "Mapping with Feeling: The Human Cartography of People's Lives" by Daniel Dorling (University of Bristol); and May 6, 1999 – "Contention the Mother of Invention: Early Maps of England in the 'Public Record Office'" by Rose Mitchell (Public Record Office). For more information contact Nick Millea, Map Curator, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG; phone, 0186 5277 013, fax 0186 5277 139; email nam@bodley.ox.ac.uk.

Members of the Dutch Society for Cartography and the German Society for Cartography will meet in Maastricht on May 17-20, 1999 for **Cartography Congress Maastricht 1999**. The conference includes

a program of lectures, poster and map exhibitions, a cartography market, excursions and forums. Languages spoken will include Dutch and German. For more information contact Peter G.M. Mekenkamp, Vakgroep Kartografie, Faculteit Ruikmtelijke Wetenschappen, Universiteit Utrecht; phone +31 30 253 2047, fax +31 30 253 1386; email p.mekenkamp@frw.ruu.nl, or visit their web site at <http://nvkserver.geog.uu.nl/maastricht99/>.

The Library of Virginia will sponsor a symposium entitled **Mapping Virginia**, which features explorations of new technologies in cartography, on April 23-24, 1999. Speakers include Louis de Vorsey (Geography, University of Georgia-Athens), Richard W. Stephenson (Library of Congress), Marianne M. McKee (Library of Virginia), John R. Hebert (Library of Congress), Donald H. Cresswell (Philadelphia Print Shop), Ronald E. Grim (Library of Congress), and Gary North (National Mapping Program, USGS, retired).

Gendered Landscapes: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Past Place and Space is the title of a conference sponsored by the Pennsylvania State University on May 31-June 1, 1999. Bringing together scholars from many disciplines (history, geography, landscape architecture, art history, urban history, sociology, art, American and women's studies), the organizers of the conference hope to explore the issues of gender and past construction of place and space. Speakers include Nina Baym (English, University of Illinois), James Loewen, James Duncan (Geography, Cambridge University), and Daphne Spain (Environmental Planning, University of Virginia). For more information about this conference contact Roberta Moore, Conference Planner, The Pennsylvania State University, 225 The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, University Park, PA 16802-7002, phone (814) 863-5120, fax (814) 863-5190; or email ConferenceInfo1@cde.psu.edu.

The **British Library Map Library** has put out a call for those interested in a prospective course on the history of cartography to be held in Spring or Summer 1999. The course would be intended to extend participants' familiarity with different types of maps; to deepen their understanding of the form and content of early maps; and to provide an interpretive framework for map history. This end would be achieved by combining academic talks of a general

nature with more narrowly focused workshops, aided by the knowledge and cooperation of leading experts. A charge would be involved to take the course, which would probably take place over four consecutive Saturdays. The Library encourages all who might have any interest whatsoever in this proposed course to contact them and fill out a questionnaire. Contact the Map Librarian, Tony Campbell, at The British Library Map Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, phone 0171 412 7525, or email tony.campbell@bl.uk.

The Dean and Chapter of Hereford Cathedral will host the **Mappaemundi Conference 1999** on medieval mappaemundi June 27–July 1, 1999. The conference will feature full-length keynote lectures, as well as brief paper presentations and a poster session. A special expert report on the Hereford Mappamundi is being commissioned for presentation at the conference, where participants will have the opportunity to examine the map “outside its case.” This conference is intended to coincide with the travel plans of scholars planning to attend the 18th International Conference on the History of Cartography in Athens in mid-July. The conference is made possible with the support of the Hereford Mappamundi Trust Ltd. For further information, please contact either Canon John Tiller, Master of the Library, The Cathedral Office, The Cathedral, Hereford HR 12NG; or Peter Barber by e-mail at peter.barber@mail.bl.uk.

The 18th International Conference on the History of Cartography, which has been organized by the Society for Hellenic Cartography and the National Hellenic Research Foundation in collaboration with Imago Mundi Ltd., will be held from July 11–16, 1999. The conference theme is *The Cartography of the Mediterranean World*. The conference will be conducted in English, French, and Greek, with simultaneous translation. For more information write to the 18th International Conference on the History of Cartography, Dr. George Tolia, National Hellenic Research Foundation, 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue, GR-116 35 Athens, Greece; phone +301 721 0554, fax +301 724 6212; email gtolia@eie.gr; or contact Tony Campbell via email at tony.campbell@bl.uk. The conference web site (<http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/maps/18th.htm>) includes a registration form.

The **International Cartographic Association** will hold its **11th General Assembly** concurrently

with the 18th International Cartographic Conference in Ottawa, Canada from August 14–21, 1999. Themes will include “The History of Cartography” and “Early Mapping of the Americas.” Matthew Edney can be contacted for more details, email edney@usm.maine.edu. For general information about the conference write to ICA Ottawa 1999, 615 Booth Street, Room 500, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E9, Canada; phone (613) 992-9999, fax (613) 995-8737; or visit the web site to complete an on-line questionnaire at www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/ica1999/ica_form.html.

Exhibitions

The Dutch in the Americas 1600–1800 was presented at The Equitable gallery in New York from January 22–April 4, 1998. Curated by Dr. Wim Klooster, it included rare prints, maps and illustrated books from the collection of the John Carter Brown Library. Catalogues of the exhibition can be obtained at the Brooklyn Museum Shop on 787 Seventh Avenue or by writing to the John Carter Brown Library, Sciences Library.

An exhibition at the Stewart Museum at the Fort in Montréal, *En route to the New World: Caboto and the Italian Navigators on Their Journey to the Americas* closed on April 14, 1998. It featured early maps, early views of Venice and Bristol, instruments of navigation, books from the 15th–17th century as well as previously unknown documents on the life of Cabot.

The British Museum held its first exhibit on scientific instruments, the *Humphrey Cole Exhibition*, ending May 6, 1998. The exhibit was based on the life and career of Humphrey Cole and featured 23 of his surveying instruments, his 1572 map of Palestine, and coins from dies that he punched. The exhibit was complemented by an illustrated paperback book, *Humphrey Cole: Mint, Measurement and Maps in Elizabethan England*.

New York from Above: An Aerial View, was a collection of 26 paintings by the geographer/artist Spelman Evans Downer on display at the Museum of the City of New York, and ended June 14, 1998. His work, described in the *New York Times*, December 14, 1997, as “aerial landscapes that use maps, photographs and satellite images as well as oil paint and drawing,” was part of a larger exhibit on the New York City

centennial, commemorating the union between Manhattan and the other boroughs.

The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) celebrated the **Ortelius anniversary** by featuring a small exhibit June 1, 1998 through early August. It featured 2 broadside versions of an Ortelius map originating from his *Parergon*, along with several works of modern literature. The Royal Geographic Society published three pages of accompanying notes for the exhibit. For more information contact Francis Herbert, Curator of Maps (RGS-IBG), 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR; email f.herbert@rgs.org.

The Huntington Library mounted a special exhibition, *Passages to Asia: Europe and the East in the Sixteenth Century*, to mark the 500th anniversary of Portugal's discovery of a direct maritime route to Asia. The exhibit, which ran through August 23, 1998, in San Marino, CA, focused on several significant features of 16th century European interaction with Asia, including navigational progress made by Portugal, the beginning of a global economy with expanded commerce between the east and west, and the impact of Jesuit missionaries in eastern Asia. In addition to important early maps of China, the display included the "Vallard Atlas" of 1547, Fernao Vaz Dourado's 1570 portolan atlas, and Vesconte Maggiolo's 1516 depiction of the Portuguese route to India.

A Boston Miscellany: Early Maps of Boston was an exhibit on display at the Harvard Map Collection ending in September 1998. The exhibit included John Seller's "A Mapp of New England," the first nautical chart of Boston Harbor, and an unusual view of the Boston Highlands showing Boston's first baseball park.

The Maryland Historical Society presented *Mapping Maryland: The Willard Hackerman Collection* in recognition of the first public appearance of the Hackerman collection, an amazing set of pristine maps of the Middle Atlantic region. Highlights included the 1612 map of John Smith, the 1755 Fry-Jefferson map, and important maps of Baltimore, especially those done by Fielding Lucas, Jr., an early 19th century atlas-maker and founder of the Maryland Historical Society. The exhibit closed on September 13, 1998.

Maps and other war items from World War II were on display in the atrium of the new Reagan

Federal Office Building in Washington, D.C. during the exhibit *World War II Through Russian Eyes*, which closed on September 2, 1998. It featured Adolf Hitler's globe, emblazoned with a huge swastika and inscribed with the words "I am coming" over Russia and "I will be there soon" over North America, as well as several war maps from the Kremlin.

Rotterdam's Maritime Museum opened an exhibit on June 27, 1998 featuring **Japanese prints of the Dutch in Nagasaki**. Though there was no specifically cartographic material on display, much of this exhibit related to the early expeditions of the Dutch to the East Indies, and consequently, Japan. The exhibit ran through the end of November. For more information contact Sjoerd de Meer, Maritiem Museum 'Prins Hendrik,' Leuvehaven 1, 3011 EA Rotterdam; email demeer@mmph.nl, or www.mmph.nl.

The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., had on display a small exhibit, *A Collector's Cabinet*, May 17–November 1, 1998, in the Dutch Cabinet Galleries. The display, a simulation of a 17th-century collector's cabinet or "kunstkamer," made use of two globes and one atlas from the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.

The Schweizerischen Alpenen Museum Bern hosted an exhibition of maps from the **Ryhiner map collection**, one of the most valuable and outstanding collections in the world. This exhibition opened in September and ran through December 6, 1998.

Iceland on Old Maps was on display until mid-November 1998 in Budapest at the Natural History Museum. Organized by Dr. Zsolt Torok, of the Department of Cartography at Eötvös University, the exhibit presented items from the collection of Oswald Dreyer-Eimbcke, president of the International Map Collectors' Society and honorary consul of Iceland.

Beginning last May, DMS's *Military Survey 250th Anniversary Exhibition* was re-opened in Edinburgh Castle, Scotland, where it remained until mid-November 1998. Anyone wishing to visit this exhibition should contact Stella Fulton of Historic Scotland, phone 0131 225 9846, to get details as to the exhibit's exact location and open hours.

In September the Osher Map Library opened an exhibit displaying **Maps of Spain from the Enggass Collection**, a collection donated in 1996 by Peter Enggass, Professor Emeritus of Geography and Geology at Mt. Holyoke College. The exhibit features

a 1486 Ptolemaic woodcut map, regional maps and sea charts from the Golden Age of Dutch and Flemish cartography, maps of Spain's colonial possessions in the Caribbean, and other maps of the Iberian Peninsula. This exhibit will close on February 13, 1999. For more information call the Library at (800) 800-4876 ext. 4850, or visit their web site at www.usm.maine.edu/~maps.

The Amsterdam University Library commemorated the **400th year of Ortelius' death** by presenting a selection of his work in the library's exhibition room this past summer. About 40 maps and 30 atlases by Ortelius were displayed. Additionally, the Museum Plantin-Moretus, Antwerp, Belgium, will observe the

Antwerp mapmaker's death with an exhibition of his work November 20, 1998, through the end of February, 1999. For additional information contact the Museum Plantin-Moretus, Vrijdagmarkt 22, 2000 Antwerpen; phone +32 3 233 02 94, or fax +32 3 226 25 16.

The Museum of the City of New York presented *New York Begins: A Rare Drawing of New Amsterdam*, from September 26-November 29, 1998. This exhibit offered a rare look at a two-leaf watercolor drawing of New Amsterdam uncovered in the Austrian National Library in 1992, and not seen in this country since the 17th century. This unique rendering, presumed to have been made in New York between 1650-54, is now considered the oldest surviving hand-drawn cityscape of New York. It was accompanied by a selection of period maps and printed views from the Museum's collections and a small group of objects evocative of the Dutch presence in New Amsterdam.

Many Japanese city, provincial, and travel maps dating from 1684-1891 were on display at the Kita-City Asukayama museum in Tokyo October 1-November 23, 1998. Titled *Antique Map Pleasures*, the exhibit featured maps from the collection of Kazumasa Yamashita.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Archives has joined with Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board to launch an exhibit entitled *Mapping Our Place: Maps of the UW-Madison Campus*. This exhibition includes maps which illustrate the development of the campus from 1850-1998 as well as several failed architectural designs for the campus. Also featured is the famous Robinson Projection world map, and an exhibit on the role of maps in scholarly research. The public is invited to visit the Archives October 4, 1998-January 1999. For more information write the Exhibit Director at the Division of Archives, B134 Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI, 53706; phone (608) 262-5629, fax (608) 262-2754; or email uwarchiv@maccc.wisc.edu.

The National Library of France was closed earlier this year, while collections of books and periodicals were moved to the new library at Tolbiac. The Département des Cartes et Plans will remain at the rue de Richelieu address. The Library also planned an outstanding cartographic exhibition to coincide with the reopening. *Colors of the Earth: From Medieval*



Frontispiece to Ortelius's Atlas, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Antwerp, 1570).

World Maps to Satellite Images opened on October 9, 1998 at the rue de Richelieu address. *Figures of the Heavens* opened simultaneously at the Tolbiac facility. Both exhibits will remain open until January 10, 1999.

The New York Public Library opened an exhibition of maps, atlases, charts and globes from the newly acquired Lawrence H. Slaughter Collection on Saturday, October 24, running through March 20, 1999. Entitled *In thy map securely saile*, the exhibition features the history of English mapping of the Middle Atlantic colonies, and display maps relating to the planning of the new capitol in Washington. For more information contact David Starr, Map Division, New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue & 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018; phone (212) 929-4861. More information about the new Slaughter Collection can be accessed via the web; the site address is: www.nypl.org/research/chss/map/slauweb.html.

Another commemorative **Ortelius exhibition** will be held at the Museum Plantin–Moretus in Antwerp, Belgium from November 20, 1998 through the end of February, 1999. For additional information contact Museum Plantin–Moretus, Vrijdagmarkt 22, 2000 Antwerpen; phone +32 3 233 02 94, fax +32 3 226 25 16; or email the museum at museum.plantin.moretus@dma.be.

A major exhibition entitled *Mapping Virginia* will be on display at the Library of Virginia April 23, 1999–February 7, 2000, and will include more than fifty maps and books dealing with Virginia's cartographic history. The themes of the exhibit include how maps were made, how maps reflect changing concepts of the environment, how maps indicate changes in society, and where Virginia fits into the colonial empire and the American Republic. Some of the maps on exhibit will be the 1827 Boyne map, the 1755 Mitchell map of British claims in North America, the 1807 Madison map of Virginia, and the 1770 John Henry map of Virginia. The exhibition will include not only tradition map and text panels, but also three interactive computer programs. More information about Library of Virginia exhibits can be accessed through their web page: www.vsla.edu/.

The organizers of the Mappaemundi Conference 1999 will be launching an exhibit of the **Hereford Mappa Mundi** and a number of ancient world maps from June 27–September 30, 1999. See *Mapline* conference postings for more information.

Map Societies and Lectures

A new organization devoted to old maps has been formed in the Netherlands. *The Stichting Historische Cartografie van de Nederlanden* (Netherlands Foundation for the History of Cartography) will hold its inaugural meeting on 27–28 November 1998 at the Great Church (Church of Our Lady) in Breda. The meeting will begin with a symposium featuring seven speakers, including H. A. M. van der Heijden on map description, Peter van der Krogt on globes, and Gunter Schilder on 17th century cartography. On the afternoon of the 27th and the following day there will be a map fair featuring various Dutch and foreign dealers, as well as a sale of duplicates from the collections of the Free University of Amsterdam. There will also be an exhibition of maps, atlases, globes, and instruments.

The aims of the foundation are to: 1) forward interest in cartography in general, through map fairs, exhibits, and other events, 2) promote research in the history of cartography through a program of grants, and 3) develop educational materials to encourage an interest in cartography among schoolchildren. The Foundation seeks subscribers willing to make a minimum contribution of Hfl 100/ BEF 1850 (ca. US\$50) per year. For a 12-page illustrated brochure (in Dutch) write to Stichting Historische Cartografie van de Nederlanden, t.a.v. Secretariaat, Witrijtseweg 16, 5571 XJ Bergeijk, Netherlands.

Jenny Harvey, Chairman of the **International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS)** has announced that the Society's "new and improved" web site is now completed, giving more comprehensive coverage of the society and its events. There are plans in the future for a library book list to be added, but for the moment, Ms. Harvey encourages those interested to visit the site, forward comments and suggestions for links as necessary. She can be reached at jeh@harvey27.demon.co.uk

The **Washington (DC) Map Society** has posted on *The Portolan's* website an index of the contents of all issues published since the journal began in October 1984. The listing contains the titles and authors of all articles, book notes and book reviews, and a list of brief pieces which have appeared in the journal. *The Portolan*, published three times per year by the Washington Map Society, is mailed to all Society members in good standing and to all pre-paid subscribers. For membership or subscription

information, contact Ed Redmond, Secretary, Washington Map Society, P.O. Box 2149, Washington, DC 20013-2149.

The **Royal Geographical Society** is sponsoring their yearly **E.G.R. Taylor Lecture** on Wednesday, December 9, 1998. This year's speaker will be Dr. Andrew Cook of the India Office Records, British Library. His speech is titled "The Public and Private Lives of a Hydrographer: James Horsburgh, 1762-1836." Contact Tony Campbell, Map Library, British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG; phone 0171 412 7525.

The eighth series of the **Warburg Institute's "Maps and Society" Lectures** at the University of London began in October 1998 and will continue monthly through June 1999. Dr. Tom Conley gave the inaugural lecture, "From 'Satyre' to 'Theatre': The Map and the Political Essay in Sixteenth-Century France," on October 29, 1998. For a complete listing of remaining lectures, see our **Calendar**. Direct further inquiries about the lecture series to Tony Campbell, Map Library, British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG; phone 0171 412 7525.

Awards and Fellowships

1997 Ristow Prize. The Walter W. Ristow Prize, awarded each year by the Washington (DC) Map Society for outstanding papers in cartographic history and map librarianship, was presented in December, 1997, to **Philip J. Stern** for his entry, *Not Withstanding the Efforts of the Ancients and the Wishes of the Moderns: Antiquity, Authority and Cartography in the Origins of the Modern British Exploration of Africa*. Mr. Stern received his B.A. in History in 1997 from Wesleyan University. **Stephen Tseng-hsnin Chang**, a Ph.D./M.Ph. candidate at the University of London, was awarded an Honorable Mention for his paper, *The Portuguese Maritime Discoveries along the South-East Coast of China in the First Half of the Sixteenth Century: a Cartographic View, 1513-1550*. Both entries will be published in the *Portolan*, the journal of the Washington Map Society. The Ristow Prize competition is open to all full or part-time upper-level undergraduate, graduate and first-year postdoctoral students attending accredited colleges or universities. For further information about the Ristow Prize, contact Ed Redmond, Secretary, Washington Map Society, P.O. Box 2149, Washington, D.C. 20013-2149.

Fifth Series of J.B. Harley Fellowships. The

Trustees of the J.B. Harley Research Fellowship Trust Fund announced in February the recipients of the J.B. Harley Research Fellowships in the History of Cartography. **Karen C. Pinto** (Department of History, Columbia University) was selected for her work on *The World in the Medieval Muslim Cartographical Imagination*. **Dr. James C. Robertson** (Department of History, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica) was honored for his project *Maps, Surveyors and Surveying: Framing the Initial English Settlement in Jamaica*; and **Jill Shefrin** (Independent Researcher, Toronto, Canada) for her project, *Maps as Educational Aids in the Teaching of Geography to Children in England, 1760-1820*. The closing date for the next series of fellowship awards is November 1st. For further information, contact the Hon. Sec. c/o British Library Map Library, 96 Euston Road, St. Pancras, London NW1 2DB.

ESRC funds Historic Boundaries Project. The UK Economic and Social Science Research Council agreed to fund Dr. Richard Oliver's project at Exeter University, UK, *A Machine-Readable Map of English and Welsh Historic Parish Boundaries*. According to the ESRC, "the project will reconstruct and make available in electronic map form the boundaries of all the pre-1850 parishes, townships and other local administrative districts of England and Wales"; a comprehensive gazetteer will accompany the map. Work completed by Exeter University on tithe surveys and enclosure maps will serve as the principal resource for the project.

First Helen Wallis Fellowship Awarded. **Professor Henry J. Stewart** of Clark University's Graduate School of Geography was named the recipient of the first ever Helen Wallis Fellowship. Professor Stewart will take up his fellowship at the British Library beginning in January 1999. The Award was established as a tribute to Dr. Helen Wallis, Map Librarian at the British Museum and then the British Library (1967-1986), and recognizes a scholar whose endeavors foster the extended and complementary use of the British Library's book and cartographic collections. Professor Stewart will be examining the parallel careers of two surveyors, William Mayo (1684-1744) and Francis Louis Barrallier (1773-1853). The annual application deadline for the Helen Wallis Fellowship is May 1st. For additional information about the prize, contact Tony Campbell, Map Librarian, British Library Map Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB.

The International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS) has chosen Susan Gole as the winner of their 1998 Helen Wallis Award. Besides editing the *IMCoS Journal*, Gole has published several books in her area of speciality, maps of India, including *Indian Maps and Plans: The Mapping of Mughal India* and *Early Maps of India*. Gole was also granted a fellowship in 1992 at the Cultural Foundation of Cyprus, and combined her work there with research in the British Library and India Office, culminating in the publication of her book, *Maps of the Mediterranean Regions Published in British Parliamentary Papers 1801–1921*.

The John Carter Brown Library has announced its research fellowship program for the 1999–2000 academic year. Short-term fellowships (2–4 months) will be awarded to foreign and U.S. citizens engaged in pre- and post-doctoral, or independent, research. Long-term fellowships (5–9 months) are funded primarily through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; applicants may not be engaged in graduate work, and usually must hold U.S. citizenship. The John Carter Brown Library encourages applicants working on research in the fields of the library's strengths: the Western Hemisphere and colonial development, with emphasis on the European discovery; the indigenous response to European conquest; the African contribution to the development of the hemisphere; and New World/Old World contact and struggles. The closing date for applications is January 15, 1999. For further information about these fellowships, contact the Director, John Carter Brown Library, Box 1894, Providence, RI 02912; phone (401) 863-2725, fax (401) 863-3477; email JCBL_Fellowships@brown.edu.

Of Webs and Nets: Place Name Research Sites

(By Patrick Morris)

The Internet offers many sources listing toponyms (place names). These vary widely in content but typically include some of the following: geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude), name forms preferred for government use, cross references from historical forms or variant spellings, and links to other sites which automatically produce on-line maps showing the location of a place.

The GEOnet Names Server (GNS) traces three-and-a-half million place names outside the United States, and is hosted by the U.S. National Imagery and Mapping Agency. Names in the database were compiled by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for official use by federal agencies, and are based on individual gazetteers published by the Board since 1950. GNS covers approximately 250 countries and regions, and is regularly updated on-line. Searches can be limited to one or more countries, or expanded to a region defined by entering latitude and longitude coordinates. Users may also search by dozens of feature types (populated place, atoll, battlefield, grassland, etc.), or submit places of uncertain spelling with asterisks. Search results, which may be custom sorted several ways, include country and geographic feature abbreviations, as well as geographic coordinates to the second.

The Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names (TGN) is one of several art-historical reference databases hosted by the Getty Information Center in Los Angeles. With approximately 900,000 names from all over the world, TGN includes references from obsolete to current names, geographic coordinates, and identifies places by type. Its most noteworthy feature, however, is its hierarchical display of place names, allowing the user to jump from level to level within the scheme, or browse other names in the same rank. For example, a search for Vieux Carré results in an indented display that includes its longitude and latitude and its variant name, the French Quarter. The neighborhood name is displayed within TGN's geographic hierarchy as a subset of the continent of North America, in the country of the United States, state of Louisiana, parish of Orleans, and city of New Orleans; clicking on any of these names moves you to that level within the hierarchy. Therefore, you may choose to display a list of all New Orleans neighborhoods by clicking on the city name, or

automatically move up two levels to see subordinate places listed under the parish of Orleans.

The **JewishGen ShtetlSeeker** is a database listing Jewish communities destroyed during the Holocaust. The ShtetlSeeker is similar in intent to Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack's book *Where Once We Walked* (Teaneck, N.J.: Avotaynu, 1991), but is based on data from the GNS. Developed as a tool for genealogical research, the ShtetlSeeker serves as a powerful on-line gazetteer containing the names of roughly 590,000 populated places in Central and Eastern Europe. Place name searches can be limited to one of 24 countries covered by the database, or expanded to search all simultaneously. Searches may be made by exact spelling or by automated soundex (i.e. phonetic) code. Soundex searches are ideal for names known only through oral tradition, allowing the user to scan a list of variant spellings to choose from. Places which have changed names as the result of shifting national boundaries are cross-referenced from older to current forms. Following a completed search, the resulting list of closest matches provides longitude and latitude coordinates to the nearest minute, and directional mileage distances from capitol cities. By clicking on the highlighted coordinates of a name, the user automatically generates an on-screen map locating the village through **MapQuest's Interactive Atlas**. Another search option allows you produce a list of towns and villages up to 30 miles away from a specified longitude and latitude.

For links to many more on-line gazetteers, visit **Oddens's Bookmarks**.

World Wide Web addresses (as of 18 August 1998):

GEOnet Names Server (GNS)

<http://164.214.2.59/gns/html/index.html>

The Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names (TGN)

http://www.ahip.getty.edu/tgn_browser/

The JewishGen ShtetlSeeker

<http://www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker/>

MapQuest Interactive Atlas

<http://www.mapquest.com/>

Oddens's Bookmarks

<http://kartoserver.frw.ruu.nl/html/staff/oddens/gazett.htm>

Selected Excerpts from MAPS-L, an electronic discussion group for map librarians and all others

interested in maps. Names and dates have been deliberately omitted.

Q: I've been asked this question, so thought I'd pass it on to a larger audience. Is there a future for USGS maps in print form or are there digital alternatives that can replace our paper collection now?

A: Personally, I would do everything possible to retain any kind of paper map collection. Digital access to materials shows every indication of being yet another battle in an ongoing War of the Formats; the reality of maps still starts from a graphic representation printed on any number of materials which can be physically touched and seen. As digital availability of maps increases, and as new, unforeseen formats are developed, it seems to me that paper collections will increase in their value and usefulness.

A: Just before Christmas last, at the end of a one-term course on basic principles in cartography for second-year students...I set an assignment...to present a detailed proposal [for publishing an atlas]... . I deliberately gave them carte blanche... . It was interesting, to put it mildly, to find that well over 50% of the students answered this by presenting proposals for a CD-ROM based interactive atlas...rather than considering a conventional paper product. Most of them justified their approach on the grounds that it was "more up-to-date"... . It was also more than a bit sobering - in fact it came as a nasty shock! - to realize they all seemed to assume the data they would need could simply be downloaded from "somewhere" on the Internet. The idea that someone, somewhere has to actually capture and compile the data (and any maps used to present the data) in the first place seems sadly to have eluded them.... I fear this is another much more common misconception among (especially young) people today....

To join MAPS-L, send the message "sub MAPS-L your name" to: listserv@uga.cc.uga.edu

Collection Announcements

The **Special Collections Division of The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries** has acquired more than 900 historical maps from the collection of Virginia Garrett of Fort Worth. The maps, dating from the early 1500s to the early 1900s, concentrate on the Gulf of Mexico, Texas, and the Greater Southwest. In 1978, the UTA Libraries established the Cartographic History Library and since that time have built one of the finest antique map collections focusing on Texas and the Gulf of Mexico. The donation of the Virginia Garrett Map Collection will further strengthen the University's notable standing in cartographic history. The University has established the Jenkins and Virginia Garrett Endowed Chair in the History of Cartography in recognition of Virginia Garrett and her husband, Jenkins, a former UT regent. The current occupant of that Chair is our esteemed former Smith Center Director, David Buisseret.

A notable collection of maps published in Russia and Western Europe at the **School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London (SSEES)**, has now been catalogued and is included in the Library's on-line directory. The maps, dating from the 16th to the 20th centuries, with an emphasis on the 1700s, cover Russia and the countries of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. The collection also encompasses maps published by the Imperial Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg showing the Baltic and the Crimea. Many of the Russian maps were most likely purchased in 1958 as part of the inventory of V.V. Baratchevsky's Russian Bookshop. The maps of Hungary were donated by M. E. J. Groom, and the sources of other maps remain unidentified. The SSEES has an outstanding collection of maps by early cartographers including, Mercator, Jansson, Moll, Senex, Blaeu, Robert Delisle de Vaugondy, Sanson, Wit, Visscher, Homann, Hondius, Seutter, and Jaillot. The Library's on-line catalogue can be accessed via the web: www.ssees.ac.uk.

The **British Library** recently acquired an item relating to the famous 'Red-Lined' map, which was used to negotiate the peace of Paris after the American Revolution. A diplomatic messenger wrote a bill for carrying "a Very large Case of Maps" to Paris in mid-November 1782, and was endorsed for payment a year later (December 7, 1783) by Foreign Secretary Charles James Fox. These maps were undoubtedly required for

use in the final stages of the negotiations in Paris with the Americans (October 26–November 30). John Dunbabin has written an article in *Imago Mundi*, vol. 50, which looks at these very maps and the history of the boundary negotiations.

The **British Library (new St. Pancras location)** opened its **Maps Reading Room** on August 12, 1998. On the same date, the British Library also opened a reading room for their Oriental and India Office Collections. Some of the highlights of the British Library's cartographic collection include: the Mercator Atlas of Europe (c.1572), the proofs for Christopher Saxton's county maps of the 1570s, King George III's topographical collection – including the 'Duke's plan' of New York (1664), and the most comprehensive collection of British Ordnance Survey maps available to the public. Researchers can look forward to greater access to the collections and the general humanities stock, as well as traditional assistance from the library's staff of specialists. Readers should note, however, that maps held in the Department of Manuscripts will not be available until January 1999 when that collection's move to the new facility will be complete.

Information about admission to the British Library is available from Reader Admissions, 0171 412 7677; email Reader-Admissions@bl.uk. Information about the Maps Reading Room, the Oriental and India Office Collections, and the new location of the Library is available from Press and Public Relations, 0171 412 7111, fax 0171 412 7168; email Press-and-PR@bl.uk.

Obituaries

David Thackery, the Newberry Library's Curator of Local and Family History, died suddenly in July 1998. A native Ohioan, Thackery earned his B.A. from Wittenberg University and Masters' degrees in history and library science from the University of Chicago. He had been on the Newberry's genealogical reference staff for 16 years, and had ably headed that department since 1983. During his tenure at the Newberry he was instrumental in solidifying the Newberry's reputation as a leading center for genealogical research. He devoted much of his energies to enlarging the library's holdings of resources for African-American genealogy, for which the Library is now well known. He assisted the Smith Center frequently in its programs devoted to the use of maps in local historical studies, and was instrumental in enlarging the library's holdings of county

landownership maps and atlases. In 1991, he was co-author with Michael Conzen and James Akerman of an *Illinois County Landownership Map and Atlas Bibliography and Union List*, which was published by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. David was an expert bibliographer and scholar in several genealogical fields, where he published widely. He also loved Civil War history. One of the greatest ironies is that his first book, *A Light and Uncertain Hold*, a history of a regiment raised in his home county, is due to be published early in 1999 by Kent State University Press. We had never thought it would be a posthumous publication. David was a good friend to all of us as well as a distinguished and resourceful colleague, and will be sorely missed.

Jim Akerman

We remember with affection three long-time members of the Chicago Map Society who passed away during the year 1997.

Louis Werner died on May 20th. Lou was a charter member, one of the small band of graduates of David Woodward's history of cartography class who came back for more in February 1976 and founded the Chicago Map Society. Except for the most recent years when his health began to fail, Lou seldom missed a meeting. His was a friendly, calm, and self-effacing voice, whether in the social half-hour or in a board meeting. He gave generously of his time for many years as a Newberry volunteer, working on several map-related projects including organizing the Map Society's own archives. His gift to the library of a complete set of the Map Collector's Series has a prominent place in the Map Reading Room and is a daily reminder of his quiet generosity.

Roderick Webster died on August 7th, 1997. Rod just missed being a charter member of the Society, joining in April 1976, together with his wife and inseparable companion, Marjorie. The Websters served as curators of the world-renowned instrument collection at the Adler Planetarium, and had an abiding interest in maps (especially celestial maps) and navigation. They very kindly loaned instruments from the Adler collection for several Newberry map exhibits and gave tours of the collection to the Map Society on two occasions, in May 1977, and, for a gala holiday meeting, in December 1983. Those who attended the 13th International Conference on the History of

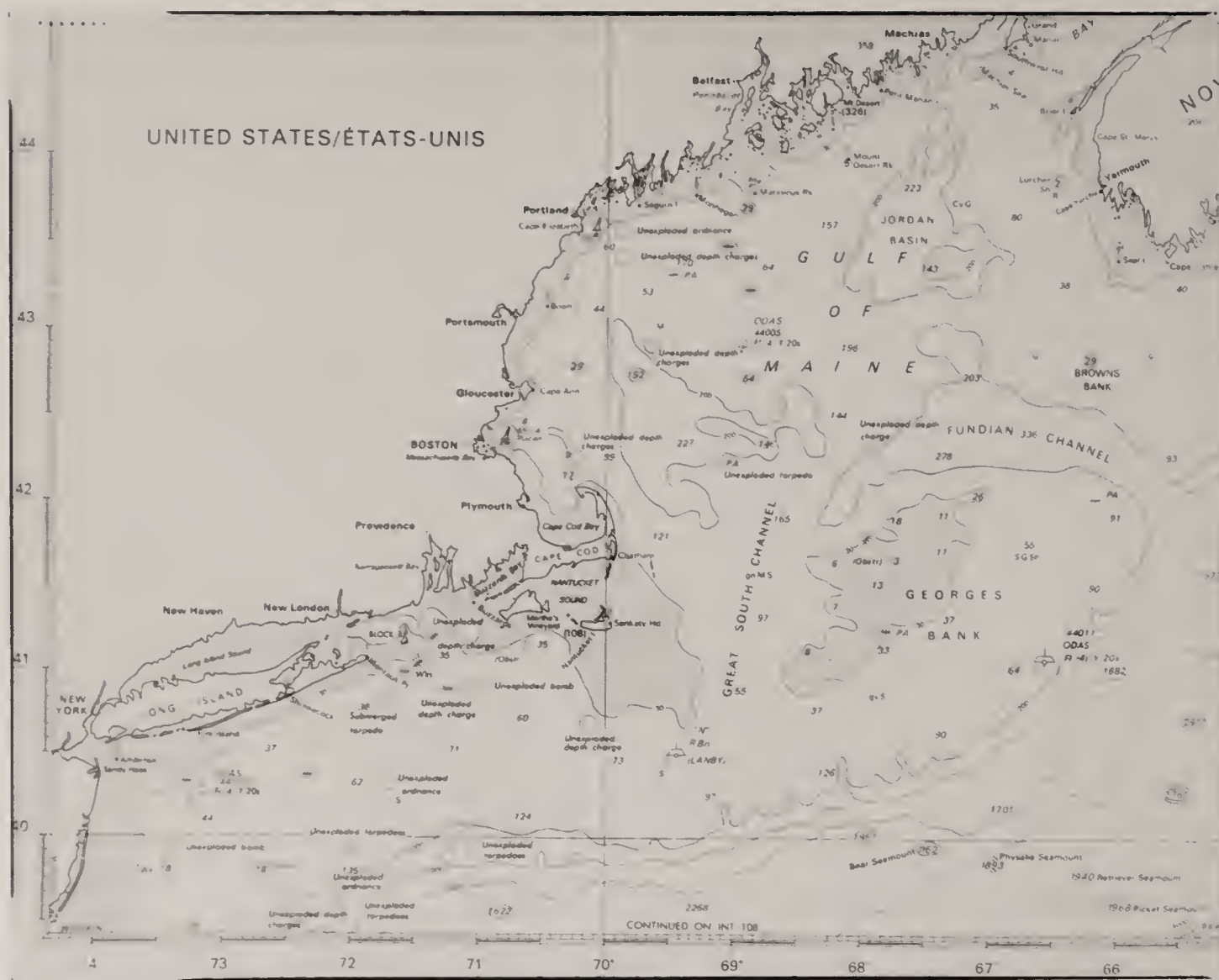
Cartography, held at the Newberry in 1993, will not soon forget the splendid display and reception which the Websters hosted at the Planetarium. Rod was a genial and generous man, always ready to share his profound knowledge of navigation and astronomy. Both David Woodward and the undersigned were privileged to take his class in the history of astronomy at the Adler.

Hilda Marchant died on August 30th. She'd been a member of the Map Society since 1982 and attended very regularly until her last year. With her quiet attentiveness and demure half-smile she took part in virtually every cartographic event and conference in the city. During the 1993 International Conference, Hilda was one of the dedicated band of volunteers who kept things going behind the scenes and helped everyone feel at home. She was also a linguist with a serious scholarly interest in the history of cartography. A year before she died, Hilda sent to the Newberry some illustrations for an article which she had hoped to publish in the *Map Collector* and which Brian Harley had encouraged her to submit. Alas, the article was not published and Hilda apparently destroyed the text. The illustrations were sent with a note that read, in part, "My life has taken a sharp turn recently, hence this urgency to take action! ... The enclosed photos and slides...are only for you to get rid of! Unless of course you know someone who may be interested in them. It is just that I did not have the heart to destroy them on my own."

Lou, Rod, Hilda -- we miss you all. Thanks for sharing your lives and your interests with us.

Bob Karrow

Dr. Antoine de Smet, a Map Librarian at the Bibliotheque Royale Albert I in Brussels, Belgium, until 1974, died at the age of 88 on December 28, 1997, only three weeks after the death of his wife. Dr. de Smet produced a number of publications concerning the history of Flemish cartography, including the 1974 publication *Album Antoine de Smet*, with an introduction by Helen Wallis.



Detail from: Canadian Hydrographic Service. *North Atlantic Ocean: Gulf of Maine to Strait of Belle Isle*. International Chart Series, INT 109 and 404. 5th ed. 1:3,500,000. Bethesda, Md.: Defense Mapping Agency, Hydrographic/Topographic Center, 1995. Courtesy of Northwestern University Library Map Collection.

Map Talk

(By Patrick Morris)

INT 109 is one of the few charts that shows the full width and breadth of the summer swordfishing grounds, and is carried by every sword boat in the Banks. It has a scale of one to three-and-a-half-million; on a diagonal it stretches from New Jersey almost to Greenland. Land on 109 is depicted the way mariners must see it, a blank, featureless expanse with a scattering of towns along a minutely-rendered coast. The lighthouses are marked by fat exclamation points and jut from every godforsaken headland between New York City and South Wolf Island, Labrador. Water depth is given in meters and shallow areas are shaded in blue. Georges Bank is clearly visible off Cape Cod, an irregular shape about the size of Long Island and rising to a depth of nine feet. To the west of Georges is the Great South Channel; beyond are the Nantucket

Shoals and an area peppered with old ordnance: *Submerged torpedo*, *Unexploded depth charges*, *Unexploded bombs*. The Two Hundred Fathom line is the chart's most prominent feature, echoing the coastline in broad strokes like a low-angle shadow. It swings north around Georges, skirts Nova Scotia a hundred miles offshore and then runs deep up the St. Lawrence Seaway. East of the Seaway are the old fishing grounds of Burgeo and St. Pierre Banks, and then the line makes an enormous seaward loop to the southeast. The Grand Banks.

From Sebastian Junger, *The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea* (New York and London: W.W. Norton & Co., 1997) pp. 92-93.

Calendar

(Compiled by *Robin K. Dillow and Kristen Block*)

December 9, 1998

Dr. Andrew Cook (India Office Records, British Library) will present the "E.G.R. Taylor Lecture" at the British Library at 6:30 pm. His lecture is entitled, "The Public and Private Lives of a Hydrographer: James Horsburgh, 1762-1836." For more information contact Tony Campbell, phone 0171 412 7525, email tony.campbell@bl.uk.

December 10, 1998

"Maps and Society" Lecture will be held at the Warburg Institute at the University of London. This evening's speaker is Dawn Odell (Art History, University of Illinois), who will be delivering a lecture entitled "Mapping Mercantilism in the Seventeenth Century: The Dutch East India Company Travels to China." All are welcome – admission is free, and refreshments will be served after the meeting. Direct inquiries to Tony Campbell, phone 0171 412 7525, email tony.campbell@bl.uk.

December 10, 1998

The Washington Map Society will hold a meeting at 7 pm in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress. Vice-President Edward Redmond will present a slide lecture entitled "The George Washington Map Collection in the Library of Congress."

December 12-13, 1998

"Ortelius Weekend 1527-1598" conference and festivities will be held, sponsored by the Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle. Three speakers will present papers in the morning on Saturday at the College St. Michel in Brussels, followed by a visit to the Ortelius exhibition at the Royal Library in Brussels. On Sunday, the group will travel to Antwerp to visit the Ortelius exhibition in the Plantin-Moretus Museum. For additional information contact Veronique van der Kerckjof, phone 32 02 772 69 69.

January 21, 1999

The International Map Collectors' Society will meet at the Farmers Club. For more details contact Harry Pearce, fax +44 181 677 5417.

January 23, 1999

The California Map Society will meet at the Karples Manuscript Library Museum (10 am – 4 pm). For more information contact Society President Bill Warren, phone (626) 792-9152.

January 28, 1999

"Maps and Society" Lecture at the Warburg Institute. Professor Michael Jones (History, University of Nottingham) will give a lecture on "The English and Brittany in the Late Sixteenth Century: The Map Evidence." The meeting begins at 5 pm, and is followed by refreshments. Admission is free. Contact Tony Campbell for more details, phone 0171 412 7525, email tony.campbell@bl.uk.

February 6-7, 1999

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida will host the Miami International Map Fair. Contact Map Fair Coordinator Marcia Kanner for information and registration materials, c/o The Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130, phone (305) 375-1492.

February 18, 1999

The Oxford Seminar in Cartography will be held at the School of Geography, Oxford. Daniel Dorling (University of Bristol) will present "Mapping with Feeling: The Human Cartography of Peoples' Lives." The seminar begins at 5 pm. Contact Nick Millea for more information, email nam@bodley.ox.ac.uk.

February 25, 1999

"Maps and Society" lecture at the Warburg Institute. Dr. Jeffrey Stone (Geography, University of Aberdeen) will speak on "Imperialism, Colonialism and Cartography in Africa." Admission to the Warburg Lecture is free. The meeting will begin at 5 pm, with refreshments following. Direct inquiries to Tony Campbell, phone 0171 412 7525, email tony.campbell@bl.uk.

March 18, 1998

"Maps and Society" Lecture at the Warburg Institute. Professor Martha Pollack (Art History, University of Illinois at Chicago) will speak on "Military Strategy and City Plans in the Seventeenth Century." The meeting begins at 5 pm and is followed by refreshments. All are welcome. Admission is free. Contact Tony Campbell for more information, phone 0171 412 7525, email tony.campbell@bl.uk.

